



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- A severe cyclonic storm, Fani, has begun to strike Bangladesh early hours of 4 May, bringing with it high winds and heavy rainfall. Over ten million people in the country are expected to be affected.
- Almost 1.3 million people have been evacuated to cyclone shelters across affected areas of western and southern Bangladesh.
- Government authorities are responding across affected divisions, mobilizing medical teams and supplies, protecting water sources and disseminating lifesaving information. National exams have been postponed, and schools have been closed, many of which are in use as cyclone shelters.
- UNICEF has pre-positioned emergency lifesaving supplies to meet the needs of up to 100,000 people in western areas of the country and Cox's Bazar and contingency agreements with partners are ready to be activated to provide emergency WASH, nutrition, health, child protection and education services.
- The Needs Assessment Working Group will meet Government officials today to plan for use of the Joint Needs Assessment tool.

4 May 2019

10 million

People are in areas exposed to potential damage
(Need Assessment Working Group, 3 May)

4 million

Children live in affected areas (UNICEF estimate)

909,919

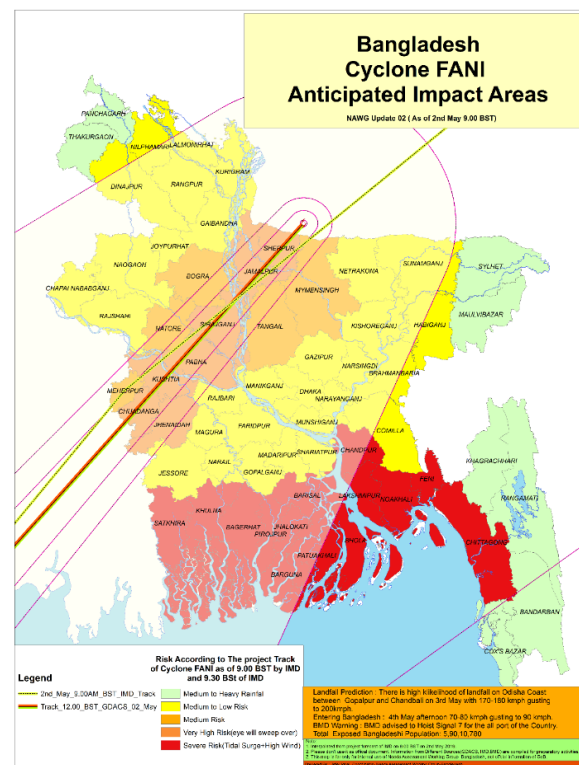
Rohingya refugees in affected areas
UNHCR, 15 April 2019

Situation Overview

According to the Bangladesh Metrological Department, the severe cyclonic storm Fani has been moving north-northeast. As of 3 May the storm had weakened after making landfall in coastal Odisha in India. It has already reached Khulna, in southwestern Bangladesh, early morning on 4 May 2019 and is now moving north-eastwards.

Over the coming day, low-lying areas of the coastal districts may be inundated by storm surges of up to 1.5m. In addition to coastal areas, non-coastal districts are also likely to be affected by heavy rainfall and potential flash flooding.

In the most affected division, Khulna, 531,000 people have been evacuated to 797 cyclone shelters, with five embankments reported as having been broken so far, resulting in the flooding of villages. Schools across the country have been closed, many of which are acting as cyclone shelters for their communities. Ten villages in Barisal Division have been inundated by a tidal wave already and people have moved to a cyclone shelter; across this Division, 684,340 people have moved to 1,774 cyclone shelters, particularly on islands and remote coastal areas. Meanwhile, in Rangpur and Rajshahi Divisions, the water level in the rivers is normal at present but expected to rise with heavy rainfall. Finally, 74,000 people have been taken to 3,453 cyclone centres in Chattogram Division. Three deaths have been reported due to winds and lightning in Chattogram Division. Winds of up to 50km/hour have been reported in locations.



As of the morning of 4 May, there has been minimal impact on Cox's Bazar District of Chattogram Division, where over 900,000 Rohingya refugees are living in makeshift shelters, alongside a host community of 2.3 million.

Humanitarian Coordination

An inter-ministerial coordination meeting chaired by the State Minister of Bangladesh's Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief was held on 2 May, with the participation of the Cabinet Secretary, the Principal Secretary, relevant secretaries from different Ministries, the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Director General of Armed Forces Division. Authorities in Bangladesh have undertaken comprehensive preparations to minimize risks both to people and key infrastructure. This includes the Bangladesh Water Development Board monitoring embankments in cyclone-prone districts; the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare readying health teams and emergency medical supplies; and the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology working to maintain telecommunication networks across the country.

UNICEF is working closely with Divisional and District Level Government officials as well as Line Departments at the Sub-National Level, UN agencies, Humanitarian Clusters, and international and national NGO partners to support preparedness activities and is prepared to respond to the humanitarian situation throughout the country if required. In the two sub-districts hosting Rohingya refugees, any humanitarian response will be led by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group.

UNICEF and Partner Response

UNICEF has pre-positioned emergency lifesaving supplies for up to 100,000 people in the country in the areas of WASH, nutrition, child protection and education. Field staff are ready to be deployed to affected areas to support emergency programmes for affected children and families. UNICEF has contingency partnership agreements at sub-national levels covering over 82,000 in Khulna, 71,000 people in Barisal and 45,000 in Rangpur. Contingency plans are also in place for Chattogram, Sylhet and Mymensingh Divisions.

Khulna Division: As Khulna is expected to be the first, and possibly hardest, hit area, the government has opened 723 cyclone shelters and opened 6,000 primary schools for use as additional cyclone shelters. UNICEF has Education-in-Emergencies supplies ready, to ensure that education is not unnecessarily disrupted. Government authorities have mobile medical teams and mobile water treatment plants as well as water tankers on standby to respond and are airing cyclone preparedness messages across radio stations.

Barisal Division: UNICEF is collaborating closely with the government authorities leading the response. Medical teams and ambulances are on standby, and key health and nutrition supplies have been prepositioned. Local Departments of Public Health Engineering (DPHEs) have accounted for supplies and filled any gaps (such as lime and bleach) from the local market. UNICEF has mobilized its partners to support message dissemination through implementing partners, radio and local governance programme counterparts. Messages include general preparedness and safety, as well as key hygiene messages on safe water storage and protection of water sources such as tube wells.

Rangpur and Rajshahi Divisions: UNICEF officers remain in regular contact with their government departments and NGO implementing partners to survey the situation and respond as needed. The Civil Surgeon has medical teams on standby, along with key medical items while the divisional and local DPHEs have lifesaving supplies and spare parts to fix water points at the ready. UNICEF has pre-positioned supplies in key areas across the division. Emergency preparedness and lifesaving messages for families and children have been disseminated through all UNICEF partners in Rangpur and Rajshahi Divisions; partners have started passing these messages to communities including through Bangladesh Betar Radio.

Chattogram Division: Throughout the Division, early warning systems have been activated. Government authorities have evacuated 74,000 individuals to cyclone shelters (including schools); distributed food to those seeking refuge in shelters; and undertaken mass mobilization around preparedness messaging. Volunteers, medical teams and relief items are on stand-by.

Cox's Bazar District: So far, only minor damage has been reported to shelters in one Rohingya refugee camp (Camp 21). In the absence of cyclone shelters for refugees (cyclone resistant shelters exist in the host community but cover only approximately 20 per cent of the Bangladesh host population), the refugees may be advised to stay in their shelter or in stronger structures within the camps or depending on the severity of the cyclone, to be guided by the advice of the Bangladesh Army. UNICEF has prepositioned lifesaving supplies in warehouses and partner service sites throughout Teknaf and Ukhia Sub-Districts and has worked with its partners to reinforce or move key infrastructure based on risk analysis mapping.

Sylhet Division: Emergency preparations have also been undertaken in Sylhet, where heavy rains are leading to water levels rising in major rivers in the division. Government counterparts have readied mobile medical teams; medical supplies including oral hydration salts; and social welfare funding in case the need arises. UNICEF and its partners are collaborating closely with government authorities.

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